

Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra announces 2024 Brady Block Parties

By Felecia Tchen Kanney
VP, Communications
Cincinnati Symphony
Orchestra
Cincinnati Pops Orchestra
May Festival

The Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra (CSO) has announced its 2024 Brady Block Parties line up. The Brady Block Parties, anchored by CSO concerts and named in honor of Andrew J. Brady, longtime Cincinnati orchestra and band director at Western Hills High School, will take place outdoors at five locations across Greater Cincinnati, June 6 through August 1.

Each Brady Block Party is free and open to the public and will include art activations by Robert O'Neal Multicultural Arts Center (ROMAC), games and activities for all ages in collaboration with Cincinnati Circus, and food from area food vendors and culminate with an outdoor concert by the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra.

The Brady Block Parties

will take place at The Banks at the ICON Festival Stage at Smale Park, adjacent to The Andrew J. Brady Music Center (June 6); West End at Ezzard Charles Park (June 23); Price Hill at the Dunham Recreation Center (July 14), Avondale at the North Avondale Recreation Center fields (July 19), and Woodlawn/Lincoln Heights at the Woodlawn Community Center (August 1). Community partners include the Cincinnati Men's Chorus, Seven Hills Neighborhood Houses, Price Hill Will, Cincinnati Recreation Commission, Village of Woodlawn, Village of Lincoln Heights and North Avondale Community Council.

"We are excited for the third summer of Brady Block Parties," said Harold Brown, The Honorable Nathaniel R. Jones Chief Diversity & Inclusion Officer at the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra. "This summer we continue to build on the fruitful relationship that we've developed with our

community partners over the last two seasons and form new relationships with the new neighborhoods of Avondale and Woodlawn/Lincoln Heights. No matter who you are or where you come from, we welcome you to come out and celebrate our community with us in food, fun, games and live performances by the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra along with a few special guests."

"Seven Hills Neighborhood Houses partners with residents and stakeholders to build a stronger West End through collaboration. Partnering with the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra allows us to bring enriching experiences, opportunities to engage and lasting memories. Residents look forward to Brady Block Party, offering a chance to celebrate together, experience the arts and have family fun. Together, we foster hope for a vibrant West End," said Terana Boyd, Director of Community Engagement

& Program for Seven Hills Neighborhood Houses.

"The Brady Block Party will be a grand family get-together for all Zone 15 communities," added LaVerne Mitchell, Village of Lincoln Heights

"The Brady Block Party collaboration is important to the Village of Woodlawn in many ways. One, it will bring people from different backgrounds together and create a sense of unity. Two, it allows for our residents to experience a different genre of music not usually performed at our concert series. Hearing live music in a community setting, watching the musicians play the instruments allows for an appreciation to develop for the sound and richness, of the music even if you don't prefer it. Lastly, having the full production of the Brady Block Party sends a message to our community that we value them, their important and hopefully that will create a sense of unity and pride and dismantle community divides," said

Cincinnati Public Schools is hiring with Easy Walk-In Wednesdays

By Kathryn Robinson
Media Relations
Associate
Cincinnati Public Schools

Cincinnati Public Schools (CPS) is hosting Walk-In Wednesdays for on-site job interviews for instructional and non-instructional positions.

CPS is hiring dedicated, energetic and student-centered individuals for careers as

- Teachers
- Intervention Specialists
- Paraprofessionals
- Student Services Assistants (Nap Aides)

The District is hiring veteran teachers, early career teachers and also provides alternative certification programs for those looking for a new career path.

When: Every Wednesday from May 15, 2024 through August 7, 2024 2 p.m.- 5 p.m.

Where: Mary A. Ronan Education Center, 2651 Burnet Avenue, Cincinnati, 45219

Note: Interviews will be held onsite and hired applicants can do same-day background checks for a fee of only \$55. The fee must be paid in cash or by credit card.

Paula Sherman, Village of Woodlawn

A full listing of activities, vendors, and complete event details can be found at cincinnatisymphony.org/BlockParties.

Each Brady Block Party is free and open to the public and will include art activations by Robert O'Neal Multicultural Arts Center (ROMAC), games

and activities for all ages in collaboration with Cincinnati Circus, and food from area food vendors and culminate with an outdoor concert by the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra on Thursday, June 6 at 6 p.m. (concert at 7:30 p.m.) at the ICON Festival Stage at Smale Park, located adjacent to The Andrew J. Brady Music Center.

Ohio's communities of color face environmental injustice by living near toxic pollutants

By Jonathan Sharp
Environmental Litigation Group, P.C.

Environmental racism today is an acknowledged and worrying phenomenon across the United States, including Ohio. It generally refers to the intentional placing of polluting facilities, such as industrial sites, landfills, airports and military facilities, near communities primarily populated by African Americans, Latinos, Indigenous People, Asian Americans, migrants and low-income workers, or the displacement of such communities near hazardous facilities through discriminating land-use

policies.

Since the 1980s, when the Environmental Justice Movement started in the U.S., advocates and studies have raised concern over communities of color being disproportionately exposed to toxic fumes, dust and chemicals, which leads to increased health problems among them, such as cancer and respiratory issues.

A report published by Princeton University states that although African Americans make up 13.6% of the U.S. population, they are 75% more likely than White people to live in areas near facilities that produce noise, odor and traffic, and 68% live near coal-fired power plants.



Jonathan Sharp
Photo provided

Living in an area with low air quality causes various health problems, mainly asthma. Another study has shown that African American and Latin communities have twice as many oil and gas wells in their neighborhoods than White communities. Groundwater contamination by per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) has become a widespread concern across the U.S. in the past decade. However, research on PFAS exposure in communities of color is still lacking.

SCHOOL

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also served as the founding president of GRAD Cincinnati, and remains a permanent Board Member Emeritus, providing academic support to help student achievement and high school graduation.

"Dr. O'dell Owens Center for Learning not only pays homage to Dr. Owens' remarkable contributions to education and community service, but also symbolizes our collective commitment to fostering an environment that celebrates diversity, equity and excellence," CPS Board of Education Policy Chair Mike Moroski said. "This was a recommendation, not only of mine, but shared by other Board and community members. Our Policy and Equity Committee worked together on this renaming and are honored to see that Dr. Owens' legacy will continue to impact future generations of students, guiding them towards academic success and social responsibility."

Dr. Owens, also revered

as a leader in healthcare as a reproductive endocrinologist, Medical Director and Health Commissioner of the Cincinnati Health Department, President and CEO of Interact for Health and twice-elected Hamilton County Coroner, will always serve as an example to Dr. O'dell Owens Center for Learning students.

"Dr. Owens' indelible mark on our community through his commitment to education and his unwavering advocacy for

equity is a testament to his remarkable legacy," CPS Superintendent and CEO Iranetta Rayborn Wright said. "By renaming the school after Dr. Owens, we pay tribute to his enduring impact and ensure that his spirit of compassion and dedication remains at the heart of our educational mission."

The renaming of Lighthouse School to Dr. O'dell Owens Center for Learning took effect immediately.



Lighthouse School on Desmond Avenue in Madisonville.
Photo provided

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You're Invited!

Please join us as we celebrate the opening of William Joel McCray Community Park

Saturday, June 1 Noon-3 pm Evergreen Ave., across from the Cincinnati Children's Critical Care Building

Cincinnati Children's is excited to invite you to the grand opening of a welcoming outdoor space in Avondale. It's named after local and national treasure William "Joel" McCray, who was a longtime Avondale resident, WWII veteran, teacher at South Avondale Elementary School and supporter of the arts. This new community park was co-designed with local residents and features play areas, playground equipment and more.

Come explore the park's features and enjoy a day filled with community spirit and remembrance. Together, we'll pay tribute to Mr. McCray's lasting impact on our community.

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